



Alcohol at School Events Policy

RATIONALE

Malvern Central School (the *School*) has a strong parent and family community promoted by numerous annual social events, some of which include the serving of alcohol. MCS recognises that people have different expectations about what is reasonable and responsible for alcohol consumption in different settings. The School recognises that alcohol must be served and consumed responsibly and in accordance with this policy, DET guidelines and State Liquor Licensing laws and regulations. The School does not provide alcohol education for its students. The School prohibits the consumption of alcohol by students at school events or at any school organised activity. The organiser of an event which will be held on the premises of the School, must obtain the approval of School Council to serve alcohol for the consumption of adults before the event.

All decisions made by School Council regarding Alcohol at School Events will adhere to the DET guidelines and Malvern Central School Child Safe Standards Policy and Statement of Commitment to Child Safe. These are available to be viewed on the [Malvern Central School](https://malvern-central.vic.edu.au/about-mcs/#policies) website (<https://malvern-central.vic.edu.au/about-mcs/#policies>).

POLICY

Aims

This policy applies to all adults attending community/social events associated with the School and indicates when alcohol may be served (on school premises, at school functions off the school premises, during and after school hours and during school camps and excursions) and defines what behaviour is acceptable behaviour. This policy follows all DET guidelines with respect to the provision and consumption of alcohol and complies with the State Liquor Licensing laws and regulations.

Definitions

- a. A 'School Event' is an event that has been approved by School Council and is separate from a 'School Organised Activity' including but not limited to Welcome Drinks, Cocktail Night, Trivia Night and Halloween Disco.
- b. A 'School Organised Activity' is based on the school's curriculum and there is an expectation of teacher supervision at the event along with any rehearsal / practice being conducted during school hours, including but not limited to Graduation, School Production and Christmas Concert.
- c. The 'School Fair' is a bi-annual fundraising event held by the school and is open to the broader community and endorsed by School Council.

A 'School Event' / 'School Organised Activity' / 'School Fair' do not include events located off school premises, which have been organised by parents, guardians or individual class representatives independently from the School. These events are not covered by this policy and are not the responsibility of the School.

Implementation

1. Restriction of consumption and provision of alcohol

- i. All School Events and School Organised Activities whether on or off the premises of the School **where children are present and/or which involve children participation will be alcohol free whether that event is held during school hours or not.** All advertising for the event must clearly state: 'This is an alcohol-free event.'
- ii. All school camps and excursions will be **alcohol free.**
 - i. Staff and volunteers supervising students of the School on school camps and excursions are referred to the DET guidelines regarding their obligation to act in accordance with their duty of care towards students which is in force during the entire time of the camp or excursion and must comply with this Alcohol at School Events Policy.
 - ii. Staff and volunteers should be aware that consumption of alcohol by staff during camps or excursions is inconsistent with the standard of professional conduct necessary to maintain community confidence in these activities; is not allowed under this policy; and could lead to allegations of negligence and loss of WorkCover rights.
- iii. Students should not be involved in fundraising events which have an alcoholic beverage as a prize.
- iv. The School Fair is eligible to have a designated 'Restricted Drinking Zone' where School Council approval has been given in the Fair year prior to the School Fair. School Council approval for a 'Restricted Drinking Zone' will only be given if the following stipulations are adhered to:
 - i. The 'Restricted Drinking Zone' is a designated area that is clearly fenced off with one entrance.
 - ii. No children under the age 18 are permitted in the 'Restricted Drinking Zone' at any time in accordance with the Responsible Service of Alcohol requirements.
 - iii. A temporary liquor licence is obtained for the School Fair <https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/liquor/major-or-temporary-event/apply-new-licence/apply-temporary-limited-licence>
 - iv. School Council will be informed who the nominated School Fair Co-Coordinator/Leader is and they must comply with all Liquor Licensing laws, regulations and obligations. Any additionally necessary permits required

must be obtained a minimum of 30 days prior to the School Fair
<https://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/liquor/major-or-temporary-event/understand-your-liquor-licence/your-obligations>

- v. Licenced security personal will be hired to supervise the area for the duration 'Restricted Drinking Zone' is in operation.
- vi. The 'Restricted Drinking Zone' must cease all service of alcohol at the School Fair event one hour before the designated finish time and all advertising must state this clearly.
- vii. At least one volunteer / parent who holds a valid Responsible Service of Alcohol (**RSA**) Certificate must be present at the 'Restricted Drinking Zone' while alcohol is being served at all times.

RESOURCES

[DET Alcohol Policy](#)

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/alcohol.aspx>

[Responsible Service of Alcohol](#)

<http://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/home/liquor/education+and+training/responsible+service+of+alcohol/>

[Liquor Licencing](#)

<http://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au/home/liquor/education+and+training/new+entrant+training/>

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy will be reviewed annually.

This policy was approved by School Council in June 2019 and is scheduled for review in June 2020.